

Budget Workshop  
August 16, 2005

The Freeport City Council met for the budget workshop at 7:00pm on August 10, 2005.

Members Present: Mayor J.M. Marse, Council members, Earl King, Jean Arrant, Charlie Simmons, Mike Helton, and Ray Jackson. Also present Clerk Riley and Bookkeeper Robin Haynes.

Councilman Helton gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Marse opened the second budget workshop meeting.

Councilman King began with the water department tentative budget of \$1,193,900 for the City of Freeport water system. North Bay water system has a tentative budget of \$200,600. The General Fund would receive \$100,000 and the Sewer Fund would receive \$50,000 in funding from the water department. Councilman King noted that the department would have several items in capital improvements this year. He remained conservative on the revenues with the growth of Freeport with the uncertainties of the houses being built next year.

Councilman Jackson stated the sewer department tentative budget is \$510,800. He is expecting about 125 new connections for the sewer department with the expansion on Bay Loop. He factored in a capital improvement item for a new pole barn and vehicle.

Mayor Marse began finalizing the General Fund budget. Councilman Simmons was unable to get the County to release anymore funding for the Fire Department. After a lengthy discussion, the Council is aware that the County would like to take over the fire department. Most are in okay with this proposal, but there will be certain guidelines in the local agreement for them to agree with. Councilman Simmons noted that the County wants to put paid firefighters at Freeport, and they would allow qualified people whom are there now for the positions, before hiring outside firefighters. It was apparent that Chief Sullivan did not want this action to happen.

Clerk Riley left the meeting.

After further discussion on the Fire Department, the Council gave the funding of \$32,000 +/-, plus the County’s funding of \$125,000. The Fire Department received a budget of \$157,000. The final tentative General Fund budget is \$1,047,686.

Motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm by Councilman Helton.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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J.M. Marse, Mayor

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Diane Riley, City Clerk

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Earl King, President of Council